

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

November 3, 2006

Message From County Executive Walker

On Wednesday, I appeared before the Committee on Finance and Audit as they complete their discussion of the 2007 budget. I applauded the Committee for their hard work on the budget thus far. I also encouraged the County Board to maintain a united front when dealing with our largest union. Below is an excerpt from my remarks:

I must raise a concern that is directed at the rest of the members of the county board. Adding back all of the positions that were eliminated or outsourced in the original budget – without corresponding savings elsewhere – will create a budget deficit in 2007.

Realistically, it will take about \$12 million to pay for all of the positions. Of that, \$6 million is for restoring the positions themselves and \$6 million is to cover wage increases for 2007 (plus covering the bump from 2005 and 2006).

At a minimum, the county could save some \$6 million if AFSCME District Council 48 merely approved the health care plan approved by each of the other unions. A more aggressive plan for 2007 could save even more for the county that could be used to protect services and maintain jobs.

We need to send a clear signal to our workforce about our options. Many of our unions have “stepped up” and helped with changes in health care this past year. Still, our largest union has not.

Scott

Walker Praises County Employees Deployed In Military

County Executive Walker praised the eleven Milwaukee County employees who are currently serving in the military. His comments came today as he announced details on the county Mobile Benefits Issuance Vehicle being made available to veterans at the Veterans' Day Parade. The following is an excerpt of his comments:

“Our employees who are in Iraq are some of the best and brightest. I am offended by Senator Kerry's remarks and want him and others to know about the quality of our people who deployed overseas.

“These are some of the smartest people we have in the county and we're proud that they are serving in Iraq.”

Veterans Parade Comes To Milwaukee On Saturday

County Executive Walker will participate in the 47th Annual Milwaukee Veterans Day Parade this Saturday in Milwaukee. This year's parade will focus on paralyzed veterans and will feature a preview of the 2007 National Veterans Wheelchair Games that will take place next summer in Milwaukee County.

This parade is a great opportunity for Milwaukee County residents to show their support for the sacrifices that our men and women in the Armed Forces have made, and continue to make for the benefit of all of us. For more information on the parade, go to www.veteransdayparade-milw.org.

County Budget Director Leaves For Federal Job



County Budget Director, Steve Agostini, is leaving Milwaukee County to take a job as Chief Financial Officer and Director of Administration with the Economics and Statistics Administration in Washington, DC. Agostini has worked as Milwaukee County's Budget Director since January 2004, and has been responsible for the County's \$1.2 billion annual budget. County Executive Walker had this to say about Agostini:

"When we hired Steve in 2004, I knew that he brought a breadth of knowledge and expertise to the position. Steve has performed his duties with a professionalism and skill that will be hard to match. I have valued his counsel and his genuine concern for Milwaukee County. He has been responsible for crafting budgets under very difficult circumstances and has helped to steer Milwaukee County back to a course of fiscal responsibility. I wish Steve well in his new endeavor and I deeply appreciate his dedication to our county."

Walker/Mayo Breaks Ground On Research Park Hotel



Left Photo: Russ & Isaac Kaloti, Kaloti Enterprises, Inc.; County Executive Walker; James Elliot, Milwaukee County Research Park Board. **Right Photo:** Guy Mascari, Milwaukee County Research Park Board; Supervisor Mayo

On Monday, County Executive Walker and County Supervisor Michael Mayo helped break ground on a major new development at the Milwaukee County Research Park. Supervisor Mayo, as Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Community Development and Vice Chair of the Milwaukee County Research Park Board, was instrumental in facilitating this development.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is a \$27 million, 127,000 square foot development that will be built at the intersection of Highway 100 and Watertown Plank Road. The hotel will feature 196 rooms, a full service restaurant, and 8,000 square feet of meeting rooms, ballrooms, and conference facilities that can accommodate 400 guests.



Artist's Rendering of the New Crowne Plaza Hotel